REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Applicant thanks the Office for the attention accorded the present Application in the August 23, 2006, Office Action. Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In that Action, claims 1-11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Packer (US 6,058,453).

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections Based on Packer

The Office rejects claims 1-11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Packer. Applicant traverses this rejection because Applicant submits that the Office has misinterpreted Packer or the present invention.

Step (c) in claim 1 of the present invention includes: "*according to the timing **when said main data decoding procedure is triggered***, deciding the timing when said decoded subcodes should be buffered to said buffer memory" (emphasis added).

FIG. 3 and its relative descriptions depict an example of the timings. In this example, the main data decoding procedure is triggered approximately at the start of the block 32c. Correspondingly, the timing when the decoded subcode 116c is buffered to the buffer memory 112 is delayed to the start of the block 32c.

Whereas, Packer does not decide the timing for buffering decoded subcodes according to the timing when a main data decoding procedure is triggered.

In Packer, when the desired data MSF is detected, the auto-data start unit 505 provides a signal 507 to the disc transfer controller 510 indicating that it is time to begin transferring the data within the data FIFO 504a to the buffer memory 518

(Col. 7, Lines 27-32). In other words, Packer decides the timing for buffering data into the buffer memory 518 according to the timing when the desired data MSF is detected. However, the auto-data start unit 505 in Packer detects the desired data MSF by comparing incoming data MSF's with a desired MSF (Col. 7, Lines 21-27). Obviously, ***how the desired data MSF is detected is irrelevant to decoding***. Besides, after the desired data MSF is detected, Packer only buffers data into the buffer memory and *does not trigger any decoding procedure*. It can be seen that ***an MSF detecting timing in Packer is totally different from the timing when a main data decoding procedure is triggered in the present invention***.

Furthermore, FIG. 6A shows the operation of the counters in Packer. The descriptions about FIG. 6A clearly depicts that the counters are used to decide the timing *when subcodes are* ***sent out from*** *the buffer memory* instead of when subcodes are buffered to the buffer memory (Col. 6, Lines 8-25 & Col. 9, Lines 25-62). In other words, ***the counters are not used to decide when subcodes are buffered to the buffer memory***.

As explained above, step (c) in claim 1 of the present invention is not taught in Packer. Claim 1 of the present invention is also evidently different from the methods disclosed in Packer.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Packer does not anticipate the claim 1. Similarly, claim 11 also recites that "said address control unit decides the timing when said decoded subcodes should be buffered to said buffer memory *according to the timing* ***when said main data decoding procedure is triggered***". The arguments set forth in the above regarding to claim 1 also apply to claim 11. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 11.

Applicant submits that the dependent claims 2-10 and 13-20 not specifically addressed herein are allowable for the reasons discussed in pertinent portions associated with their independent claims 1 and 11, as well as for their own additional features.

Specifically, claims 9 and 10 of the present invention include a starting block deciding procedure for deciding a starting block. As described in claim 10, the starting block deciding procedure lets an optical storage device first execute a reading and buffering procedures once to check the number of blocks between the

subcodes and the audio data stored in the buffer unit, and then the optical storage device *counts the number of blocks back from the target block every time when reading said optical storage medium to decide the starting block*. That is to say, the starting block and the target block are different. In the example depicted in FIG. 3 of the present invention, the number of blocks for counting back is two. Accordingly, the starting block is 32a and the target block is 32c. As illustrated in this example, with the starting block deciding procedure, the subcode decoding procedure can be properly postponed so that a main data and its corresponding subcode can be buffered in the same buffering unit.

Whereas, Packer does not teach this starting block deciding procedure at all. Packer synchronizes data and subcodes by postponing the timing when the subcodes are released from the buffer memory (Col. 9, Lines 60-63).

For the reasons discussed above, reconsideration of claims 1-11 and 13-20 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the remarks presented herein successfully traverse the 35 U.S.C.§102(b) rejections of Claims 1-11 and 13-20. Allowance of Claims 1-11 and 13-20 is therefore requested.

Summary

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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